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EXAMINER

KUPSTAS, T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2153

DATE MAILED: 01/18/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
**09/017,295**

Applicant(s)  
**Igarashi et al**

Examiner  
**Tod Kupstas**

Group Art Unit  
**2153**



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Oct 26, 2000

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

## Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-33 and 48-59 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-33 and 48-59 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☒ The proposed drawing correction, filed on Jun 2, 2000 is ☒ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☒ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been  
☒ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 7, 9-12

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Drawings***

1. The corrected or substitute drawings were received on 6/2/2000. These drawings are acceptable.

### ***Claim Objections***

2. Claims 20 and 31 are objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 20, line 3, "she" should be --sheet-- . In claim 31, line 5, "not to all", should be --not all-- . Appropriate correction is required.
3. Claim 47 is dependant on claim 46, which belongs to the restricted group of claims and therefore is restricted as well.

### ***Specification***

4. The amendment to page 12, line 16, wherein "cross sectional" would be changed to --cross-sectional--, was not entered because it was the wrong line.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

6. Claims 1-33 and 48-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Marlin et al (US 5,778,377).

As set forth in claim 1, Marlin et al disclose a displaying method of managing a plurality of network devices, acquiring information from a selected network device of the plurality of network devices, and displaying acquired information of the selected network devices, (Marlin does this on the GUI display, see figs. 5 and 8), said method comprising: a first display step of acquiring and displaying a first information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a window allocated to the selected network device; see col. 15, lines 1-24, and a second display step of acquiring and displaying a second information on the device window in a case where a user has requested display of different information related to the selected network device; see col. 15, lines 54-66. (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that contains columns and rows displaying the status of the network devices, these devices are polled and the results are subsequently used to update the status of the devices. Furthermore, each of the menu definitions has a custom menu for each of the functions that can also be displayed and updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 2, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus for managing a plurality of network devices, acquiring information from a selected network device of

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the plurality of network devices, and displaying acquiring information of the selected network device (Marlin does this on the GUI display, see figs. 5 and 8), comprising: a first display unit for acquiring and displaying a first information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a window allocated to the selected network device; see col. 15, lines 1-24, and a second display unit for acquiring and displaying a second information on the device window in a case where a user has requested display of different information related to the selected network device).

As set forth in claim 3, Marlin et al disclose a computer-readable recording medium storing a program for implementing a managing method of managing a plurality of network devices, an acquiring method of acquiring information from a selected network device of the plurality of network devices, and a displaying method of displaying acquired information, said the program (Marlin does this on the GUI display, see figs. 5 and 8), comprising: program code for a first display step of acquiring and displaying a first information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a window allocated to the selected network device; and program code for a second display step of acquiring and displaying a second information on the device window in a case where a user has requested display of different information related to the selected network device. (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that contains columns and rows displaying the status of the network devices, these devices are polled and the results are subsequently used to update the status of the devices. Furthermore, each of the menu definitions has a custom menu for each of the functions that can also be displayed and updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

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As set forth in claim 4, Marlin et al disclose a network device control method comprising: an initial sheet information acquisition and display step of acquiring and displaying initial sheet information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a window allocated to individual network peripheral devices on a one-to-one basis; (Marlin's GUI display), see figs. 5 and 8, and col. 14, lines 15-56, a separate sheet information list making step of making a list of separate sheet information not consisting of the initial sheet information acquired and displayed in said initial sheet information acquisition and display step; see col. 16, lines 45-64, (the secondary menus), an acquisition sheet information decision step of deciding a sheet information list to acquire from separate sheet information lists made in said separate sheet information list making step (the secondary menus); a different sheet information acquisition and display step of, when it is determined that an entry has been made by a user requesting display of a different type of sheet information, acquiring and displaying different types of newly requested sheet information on a device window opened in said initial sheet information acquisition and display step (each result is flagged); an all sheet information acquisition decision step of deciding whether all sheet information has been acquired; a single sheet information acquisition decision step of deciding, when it is found in said all sheet information acquisition decision step that not all information has been acquired, whether all current acquisition of sheet information has ended based on a result of said acquisition sheet information decision step; a sheet information list status change step of changing a sheet information list status of previously acquired information when it is decided in said single sheet information acquisition decision step that all current acquisition of sheet

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information has ended; and a network device information acquisition step of acquiring network device information when it is decided in said single sheet information acquisition step that not all current acquisition of sheet information has ended. (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that contains columns and rows displaying the status of the network devices, these devices are polled and the results are subsequently used to update the status of the devices. Furthermore, each of the menu definitions has a custom menu for each of the functions that can also be displayed and updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 5, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus comprising: an initial sheet information acquisition and display unit for acquiring and displaying initial sheet information on a n initial screen of a device window, which is a window allocated to individual network peripheral devices on a one-to-one basis; (Marlin's GUI display), see figs. 5 and 8, and col. 14, lines 15-56, a separate sheet information list making unit for making a list of separate sheet information not consisting of the initial sheet information acquired and displayed by said initial sheet information acquisition and display unit; see col. 16, lines 45-63 (the secondary menus) an acquisition sheet information decision unit for deciding a sheet information list to acquire from separate sheet information lists made by said separate sheet information list making unit; a different sheet acquisition and display unit for, when it is determined that an entry has been made by a user requesting display of a different type of sheet information, acquiring and displaying different types of newly requested sheet information on a device window opened by said initial sheet information acquisition and display unit; (the secondary menus) an all sheet

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information acquisition decision unit for deciding whether all sheet information has been acquired; a single sheet information acquisition decision unit for deciding, when it is found by said all sheet information acquisition decision unit that not all sheet information has been acquired, whether all current acquisition of sheet information has ended based on a result from said acquisition sheet information decision unit (each result is flagged); a sheet information list status change unit for changing a sheet information list status of previously acquired information when decided by said single sheet information acquisition decision unit that all current acquisition of sheet information has ended; and a network device information acquisition unit for acquiring network device information when it is decided by said single sheet information acquisition unit that not all current acquisition of sheet information has ended. (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that contains columns and rows displaying the status of the network devices, these devices are polled and the results are subsequently used to update the status of the devices. Furthermore, each of the menu definitions has a custom menu for each of the functions that can also be displayed and updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 6, Marlin et al disclose a computer-readable recording medium storing a program for implementing a network device control method, the program comprising: program code for an initial sheet information acquisition and display step of acquiring and displaying initial sheet information on an initial screen of a device window, which is a window allocated to individual network peripheral devices on a one-to-one basis; (Marlin's GUI display), see figs. 5 and 8, and col. 14, lines 15-56, program code for a separate sheet information list



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making step of making a list of separate sheet information not consisting of the initial sheet information acquired and displayed in said initial sheet information acquisition and display step; see col. 16, lines 45-63 (the secondary menu); program code for an acquisition sheet information decision step of deciding a sheet information list to acquire from separate sheet information lists made in the separate sheet information list making step; program code for a different sheet information acquisition and display step of, when it is determined that an entry has been made by a user requesting display of a different type of sheet information, acquiring and displaying different types of newly requested sheet information on a device window opened in the initial sheet information acquisition and display step program code for an all sheet information acquisition decision step of deciding whether all sheet information has been acquired; program code for a single sheet information acquisition decision step of deciding, when it is found in the all sheet information acquisition decision step that not all information has been acquired, whether acquisition of all current sheet information has ended based on a result of the acquisition sheet information decision step; program code for a sheet information list status change step of changing a sheet information list status of previously acquired information when decided in the single sheet information acquisition decision step that all current acquisition of sheet information has ended; and program code for a network device information acquisition step of acquiring network device information when it is decided in the single sheet information acquisition step that not all current acquisition of sheet information has ended. (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that contains columns and rows displaying the status of the network devices, these devices are polled

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and the results are subsequently used to update the status of the devices. Furthermore, each of the menu definitions has a custom menu for each of the functions that can also be displayed and updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 7, Marlin et al disclose a network device control method wherein said initial sheet information acquisition and display step comprises: an initial sheet information specifying step of specifying initial sheet information; a sheet information list making step of making a sheet information list from initial sheet information specified in the initial sheet information specifying step; and an information acquisition step of requesting, acquiring, and displaying information for the network device based on the sheet information list made in the sheet information list making step; see col. 14, lines 15-41 (The display list of Marlin).

As set forth in claim 8, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus wherein said initial sheet information acquisition and display unit comprises: an initial sheet information specifying unit for specifying initial sheet information; a sheet information list making unit for making a sheet information list from initial sheet information specified by the initial sheet information specifying unit; and an information acquisition unit for requesting, acquiring, and displaying information for the network device based on the sheet information list made in the sheet information list making unit; see col. 14, lines 15-41 (The display list of Marlin).

As set forth in claim 9, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein the initial sheet information acquisition and display step comprises: an initial sheet information specifying step of specifying initial sheet information; a sheet information list making step of making a sheet

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information list from initial sheet information specified in the initial sheet information specifying step; and an information acquisition step of requesting, acquiring, and displaying information for the network device based on the sheet information list made in the sheet information list making step; see col. 14, lines 15-41 (The display list of Marlin).

As set forth in claim 10, Marlin et al disclose a method wherein the user specifies initial sheet information on an initial sheet information screen in the initial sheet information specifying step (when the user enters information).

As set forth in claim 11, Marlin et al disclose a method wherein the initial sheet information specifying step comprises: a network device status identifier step of determining a status of the network device, and a status initial sheet set step of setting a displayed initial sheet information by way of the network device status determined in the network device status identifier step (each component is polled for its status).

As set forth in claim 12, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus wherein the initial sheet information specifying unit specifies the initial sheet information in a fixed pattern (columns and rows).

As set forth in claim 13, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus wherein the initial sheet information specifying unit specifies the initial sheet information by utilizing an initial sheet information identifier to identify initial sheet information held in an initialize file stored in a memory of the network device (it flags and updates by time and date, thereby maintaining a current record of the status of the components).

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As set forth in claim 14, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus wherein in order to hold sheet information in the initialize file, another network device control apparatus, used immediately prior to said network device control apparatus, holds the identifier for the sheet information acquired and displayed most recently in its initialize file (the cache).

As set forth in claim 15, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus wherein the user specifies the initial sheet information to the initial sheet information specifying unit (the entering of the information).

As set forth in claim 16, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus wherein the initial sheet information specifying unit comprises: a network device status identifier unit for determining a status of the network device, and a status initial sheet set unit for setting a displayed initial sheet information by way of the network device status determined by the network device status identifier unit (each component is polled for its status).

As set forth in claim 17, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein the initial sheet information specifying step specifies the initial sheet information in a fixed pattern (the rows and columns).

As set forth in claim 18, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein the initial sheet information specifying step specifies the initial sheet information by utilizing an initial sheet information identifier to identify initial sheet information held in an initialize file stored in said recording medium (it flags and updates by time and date, thereby maintaining a current record of the status of the components).

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As set forth in claim 19, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein, in order to hold sheet information in the initialize file, a network device control apparatus used immediately prior to a current network device control apparatus holds the identifier for sheet information acquired and displayed most recently in its initialize file (the cache).

As set forth in claim 20, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein the user specifies initial sheet information on an initial sheet information on screen the initial sheet information specifying step (when the user enters the initial data).

As set forth in claim 21, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein the initial sheet information specifying step comprises: a network device status identifier step for determining a status of the network device, and a status initial sheet set step for setting displayed initial sheet information by way of the network device status determined in the network device status identifier step (each component is polled for its status).

As set forth in claim 22, Marlin et al disclose a network device control method wherein said initial separate sheet information acquisition and display step comprises: a separate sheet information specifying step of specifying separate sheet information; a sheet information list making step of making a sheet information list from separate sheet information specified in the separate sheet information specifying step; and an information acquisition step of requesting, acquiring, and displaying information of the network device based on the sheet information list made in the sheet information list making step (retrieving information from the cache) see col. 14, lines 62-67, col. 16, lines 51-53.

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As set forth in claim 23, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus wherein said initial sheet information acquisition and display unit comprises: a separate sheet information specifying unit for specifying separate sheet information; a sheet information list making unit for making a sheet information list from separate sheet information specified using the separate sheet information specifying unit; and an information acquisition unit for requesting, acquiring, and displaying information of the network device based on the sheet information list made using the sheet information list making unit (retrieving information from the cache) see col. 14, lines 62-67, col. 16, lines 51-53.

As set forth in claim 24, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein the initial sheet information acquisition and display step comprises: a separate sheet information specifying step of specifying separate sheet information; a sheet information list making step of making a sheet information list from separate sheet information specified in the separate sheet information specifying step; and an information acquisition step of requesting, acquiring, and displaying information of the network device based on the sheet information list made in the sheet information list making step (retrieving information from the cache); see col. 14, lines 62-67, col. 16, lines 51-53.

As set forth in claim 25, Marlin et al disclose a network device control method wherein the information acquisition step comprises: a sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step of deciding whether or not to compulsorily acquire sheet information (the polling of the device); an instant display step of displaying a portion of the information beforehand, based on

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currently held sheet information (the system can update columns and rows separately), when it is decided not to perform compulsory acquisition in the sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step; a display all sheet information step of deciding whether or not all sheet information was displayed when it is decided to perform compulsory acquisition in the sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step (whether or not the display was updated); a network device information acquisition step of acquiring network device information; a network device holding decision step of deciding whether or not previously acquired network device information is being held (part of initialization process; see col. 15, lines 10-24); a cache comparison step of comparing a cache value with a network device information value newly acquired in said network device information acquisition step when it is determined to hold information in cache in the network device holding decision step; a cache value hold step of holding the acquired network device information as a cache value when results of the comparison of the cache value with the newly acquired network device information value are determined to differ, and also when it is decided a cache is not being held in the network device holding decision step; a network device information display step of displaying on the device window, the cache value held in the cache value hold step (each of the devices is flagged with the time and date stamp, this provides the basis of determining the status of the polling, etc); a sheet list status change step of changing a status of currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed-status in order to decide whether to display all network device information in the display all sheet information step; an update decision step of deciding whether or not to update a display of information on the

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device window when it is decided that all network device information was displayed in the display all sheet information step; a timer update set step of setting an automatic update time when it is decided to perform updates in the update decision step; a timer update monitor step of determining whether or not time is up on the automatic update timer set in the timer update set step; and an update stop monitor step of monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when the time has not run out on the automatic update timer monitored in the timer update monitor step; see col. 15, lines 1-24.

As set forth 26, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus wherein the information acquisition unit comprises: a sheet information compulsory acquisition decision unit for deciding whether or not to compulsorily acquire sheet information (the polling of the device); an instant display unit for displaying a portion of the information beforehand, based on currently held sheet information (the system can update columns and rows separately), when it is decided not to perform compulsory acquisition using the sheet information compulsory acquisition decision unit; a display all sheet information unit for deciding whether or not all sheet information was displayed when it is decided to perform compulsory acquisition using the sheet information compulsory acquisition decision unit; (whether or not the display was updated) a network device information acquisition unit for acquiring network device information; a network device holding decision unit for deciding whether or not previously acquired network device information (hereafter called "cache") is being held (part of initialization process; see col. 15, lines 10-24); a cache comparison unit for comparing a cache value with a network device information value



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newly acquired the network device information acquisition unit when it is determined to hold information in cache using the network device holding decision unit; a cache value hold unit for holding the acquire network device value as a cache value when results of the comparison of the cache value with the newly acquired network device information value are determined to differ, and also when it is decided a cache is not being held in the network device holding decision unit; a network device information display unit for displaying on the device window, the cache value held using the cache value hold unit; a sheet list status change unit for changing a status of currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed-status in order to decide whether to display all network device information in the display all sheet information unit; an update decision unit for deciding whether or not to update a display of information on the device window when it is decided that all network device information was displayed in the display all sheet information unit; a timer update set unit for setting an automatic update timer when it is decided to perform automatic updates using the update decision unit; a timer update monitor unit for determining whether or not time is up on the automatic update timer set using the timer update set unit; and an update stop monitor unit for monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when the time has not run out on the automatic update timer monitored in the timer update monitor unit; see col. 15, lines 1-24.

As set forth in claim 27, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein the sheet information acquisition comprises: a sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step of deciding whether or not to compulsorily acquire sheet information (the polling of the device); an

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instant display step of displaying a portion of the information beforehand (the system can update columns and rows separately), based on currently held sheet information, when it is decided not to perform compulsory acquisition in the sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step; a display all sheet information step of deciding whether or not all sheet information was displayed when it is decided to perform compulsory acquisition in the sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step; a network device information acquisition step of acquiring network device information; a network device holding decision step of deciding whether or not previously acquired network device information (hereafter called "cache") is being held (part of initialization process; see col. 15, lines 10-24); a cache comparison step of comparing a cache value with a network device information value newly acquired in the network device acquisition step when it is decided to hold information in cache in the network device holding decision step; a cache value hold step of holding the acquired network device value as a cache value when results of the comparison of the cache value with the newly acquired network device information value are determined to differ, and also when it is decided a cache is not being held in the network device holding decision step; (whether or not the display was updated) a network device information display step of displaying on the device window the cache value held in the cache value hold step; a sheet list status change step of changing a status of currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed status in order to decide whether to display all network device information in the display all sheet information step; an update decision step of deciding whether or not to update a display of information on the device window when it is decided that all network

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device information was displayed in the display all sheet information step; a timer update set step of setting an automatic update timer when it is decided to perform updates in the automatic update decision step; a time update monitor step of monitoring whether or not time is up on the automatic update timer set in the time update set step; and an update stop monitor step of monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when the time has not run out on the automatic update timer monitored in the timer update monitor step; see col. 15, lines 1-24.

As set forth in claim 28, Marlin et al disclose a network device control wherein the instant display step comprises: a sheet information list decision step of deciding whether each of a cache value enable decision step, a network device information display step, and a sheet information list status change step were implemented on a currently held sheet information list (elements are flagged based on when they were last updated); a cache value enable decision step of deciding whether information in the sheet information list was previously acquired when it is decided in the sheet information list decision step that the cache value enable decision step, the network device information display step, and the sheet information list status change step were not implemented for the entire sheet information list (inherent in the log-in procedure); see col. 5, lines 35-39; a network device information display of displaying a cache value of certain information on the device window when it is determined that the information was previously acquired in the cache value enable decision step; and a sheet list status change step of changing a status of currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed status (this can be ascertained based on the value of the status timer).

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As set forth in claim 29, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus wherein the instant display unit comprises: a sheet information list decision unit for deciding whether each of a cache value enable decision unit, a network device information display unit, and a sheet information list status change unit were implemented on the currently held sheet information list (elements are flagged based on when they were last updated); a cache value enable decision unit for deciding whether information in the sheet information list was previously acquired when it is determined using the sheet information list decision unit that the cache value enable decision unit, the network device information display unit, and the sheet information list status change unit were not implemented for the entire sheet information list (inherent in the log-in procedure); see col. 5, lines 35-39; a network device information list; a network device information display unit for displaying a cache value of certain information on the device window when it is determined that the information was previously acquired using the cache value enable decision unit; and a sheet list status change unit for changing the status of currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed status (this can be ascertained based on the value of the status timer).

As set forth in claim 30, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein the instant display step comprises: a sheet information list decision step of deciding whether each of a cache value enable decision step, a network device information display step, and a sheet information list status change step were implemented on a currently held sheet information list (elements are flagged based on when they were last updated); a cache value enable decision step of deciding whether information in the sheet information list was previously acquired when it is determined in

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the sheet information list decision step that the cache value enable decision step, the network device information display step, and the sheet information list status change step were not implemented for the entire sheet information list (inherent in the log-in procedure); see col. 5, lines 35-39; a network device information display step of displaying a cache value of certain information on the device window when it is determined that the information was previously acquired in the cache value enable decision step; and a sheet list status change step of changing a status of currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed status (this can be ascertained based on the value of the status timer).

As set forth in claim 31, Marlin et al disclose a network device control method wherein the information acquisition step comprises: a display all sheet information decision step of deciding whether or not all sheet information was displayed ( part of the updating procedure); a network device information hold decision step of deciding whether a cache is being held when it is determined in the display all sheet information decision step that not all of the information was displayed; a sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step of deciding whether or not to compulsorily acquire sheet information; a network device information acquisition step of acquiring information on the network device when it is determined in the sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step to compulsorily acquire sheet information; a cache comparison step of comparing a cache value with a device information value newly acquired by the network device information acquisition step; a cache value hold step of holding the acquired network device information as a cache value when results of the comparison of the cache value

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with the newly acquired device information value are determined to differ, and also when it is determined in the network device information holding decision step that previously acquired network device information is not being held; a network device information display step of displaying on the network device window the cache value held in the cache value hold step; a sheet list status change step of changing a status of currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed status in order to decide whether to display all network device information in the display all sheet information step; an update decision step of deciding whether or not to update a display of information on the device window when it is determined that all network device information was displayed in the display all sheet information step; a timer update set step of setting an automatic update timer when it is decided to perform updates in the update decision step; a timer update monitor step of determining whether or not time is up on the automatic update timer set in the time update set step; and an update stop monitor step of monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when the time has not run out on the automatic update timer monitored in the time update monitor step. (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that contains columns and rows displaying the status of the network devices, these devices are polled and the results are subsequently used to update the status of the devices. Furthermore, each of the menu definitions has a custom menu for each of the functions that can also be displayed and updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 32, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus wherein the information acquisition unit comprises: a display all sheet information decision unit for

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deciding whether or not all sheet information was displayed (part of the display device); a network device information hold decision unit of deciding whether a cache is being held when it is determined using the display all sheet information decision unit that not all of the information was displayed; a sheet information compulsory acquisition decision unit for deciding whether or not to compulsorily acquire sheet information (by compulsorily the examiner assumes automatically update); a network device information acquisition unit for acquiring information on the network device when it is determined using the sheet information compulsory acquisition decision unit to compulsorily acquire sheet information; a cache comparison unit for comparing a cache value with a device information value newly acquired by the network device information acquisition unit; a cache value hold unit for holding the acquired network device information as a cache value when results of the comparison of the cache value with the newly acquired device information value are determined to differ, and also when it is decided using the network device holding decision unit previously acquired network device information is not being held; a network device information display unit for displaying on the network device window the cache value held using the cache value hold unit; a sheet list status change unit for changing a status of currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed status in order to decide whether to display all network device information using the display all sheet information unit; an update decision unit for deciding whether or not to update a display of information on the device window when it is determined that all network device information was displayed using the display all sheet information unit; a timer update set unit for setting an automatic update timer when it is decided

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to perform updates using the update decision unit; a timer update monitor unit for determining whether or not time is up on the automatic update timer set using the timer update set unit; and an update stop monitor unit for monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when the time has not run out on the automatic update timer monitored using the time update monitor unit. (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that contains columns and rows displaying the status of the network devices, these devices are polled and the results are subsequently used to update the status of the devices. Furthermore, each of the menu definitions has a custom menu for each of the functions that can also be displayed and updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 33, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein the information acquisition step comprises: a display all sheet information decision step of deciding whether or not all sheet information was displayed (whether everything was updated); a network device information hold decision step of deciding whether a cache is being held when it is determined in the display all sheet information decision step that not all of the information was displayed; a sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step of deciding whether or not to compulsorily acquire sheet information; a network device information acquisition step of acquiring information on the network device when it is determined in the sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step to compulsorily acquire sheet information; a cache comparison step of comparing a cache value with a device information value newly acquired in the network device information acquisition step; a cache value hold step of holding the acquired network device information as a



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cache value when results of the comparison of the cache value with the newly acquired device information value are determined to differ, and also when it is determined in the network device holding decision step that previously acquired network device information is not being held; a network device information display step of displaying on the network device window the cache value held in the cache value hold step; a sheet list status change step of changing a status of currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed status in order to decide whether to display all network device information in the display all sheet information step; an update decision step of deciding whether or not to update a display of information on the device window when it is determined that all network device information was displayed in the display all sheet information step; a timer update set step of setting an automatic update timer when it is decided to perform updates in the update decision step; a timer update monitor step of determining whether or not time is up on the automatic update time set in the timer update set step; and an update stop monitor step of monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when the time has not run out on the automatic update timer monitored in the timer update monitor step. (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that contains columns and rows displaying the status of the network devices, these devices are polled and the results are subsequently used to update the status of the devices. Furthermore, each of the menu definitions has a custom menu for each of the functions that can also be displayed and updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

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As set forth in claim 48, Marlin et al disclose a network device control method wherein the information acquisition step comprises: a sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step of deciding whether or not to compulsorily acquire sheet information; an instant display step of displaying a portion of the information beforehand based on a currently held sheet information, when it is decided not to perform compulsory acquisition decision step; a display all sheet information step of deciding whether or not all sheet information was displayed when it is decided to perform compulsory acquisition decision step; a network device information acquisition step of acquiring network device information; a network device holding decision step of deciding whether or not previously acquired network device information (hereafter called "cache") is being held; a cache comparison step of comparing a cache value with a network device information value newly acquired in the network device acquisition step when it is decided to hold information in cache in the network device holding decision step; a cache value hold step of holding the acquired network device information as a cache value when results of the comparison of the cache value with the newly acquired networked device information value are determined to differ, also when it is decided that a cache is not being held in the network device holding decision step; a network device information display step of displaying on the device window the cache value held in the cache value hold step; a sheet list status change step of changing a status of currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed status in order to decide whether to display all network device information in the display all sheet information step; an update decision step of deciding whether or not to update a display of information on the device window when it is

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decided that all network device information was displayed in the display all sheet information step; a timer update set step of setting an automatic update timer when it is decided to perform updates in the update decision step; a timer update monitor step of determining whether or not time is up on the automatic update timer set in the timer update set step; and an update stop monitor step of monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when the time has not run out on the automatic update timer monitored in the timer update monitor step. (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that contains columns and rows displaying the status of the network devices, these devices are polled and the results are subsequently used to update the status of the devices. Furthermore, each of the menu definitions has a custom menu for each of the functions that can also be displayed and updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 49, Marlin et al disclose a network control device apparatus wherein the information acquisition unit comprises: a sheet information compulsory acquisition decision unit of deciding whether or not to compulsorily acquire sheet information; an instant display unit for displaying a portion of the information beforehand based on a currently held sheet information, when it is decided not to perform compulsory acquisition using the sheet information compulsory acquisition decision unit; a display all sheet information unit for deciding whether or not all sheet information was displayed when it is decided to perform compulsory acquisition using the sheet information compulsory acquisition decision unit; a network device information acquisition unit for acquiring network device information; a network device holding decision unit for deciding whether or not previously acquired network device information (hereafter called "cache") is being

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held; a cache comparison unit for comparing a cache value with a network device information value newly acquired using the network device acquisition unit when it is decided to hold information in cache using the network device holding decision unit; a cache value hold unit for holding the acquired network device value as a cache value when results of the comparison of the cache value with the newly acquired network device information value are determined to differ, and also when it is decided a cache is not being held using the network device holding decision unit; a network device information display unit for displaying on the device window the cache value held using the cache value hold unit; a sheet list status change unit for changing a status of currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed status in order to decide whether to display all network device information using the display all sheet information unit; an update decision unit for deciding whether or not to update a display of information on the device window when it is decided that all network device information was displayed using the display all sheet information unit; a timer update set unit for setting an automatic update timer when it is decided to perform automatic updates using the update decision unit; a timer update monitor unit for determining whether or not time is up on the automatic update timer set using the timer update set unit; and an update stop monitor unit for monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when the time has not run out on the automatic update timer monitored using the timer update monitor unit (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that contains columns and rows displaying the status of the network devices, these devices are polled and the results are subsequently used to update the status of the devices. Furthermore, each of the menu definitions has a custom menu

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for each of the functions that can also be displayed and updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 50, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein the information acquisition step comprises: a sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step of deciding whether or not to compulsorily acquire sheet information; an instant display step of displaying a portion of the information beforehand based on a currently held sheet information, when it is decided not to perform compulsory acquisition decision step; a display all sheet information step of deciding whether or not all sheet information was displayed when it is decided to perform compulsory acquisition decision step; a network device information acquisition step of acquiring network device information; a network device holding decision step of deciding whether or not previously acquired network device information (hereafter called "cache") is being held; a cache comparison step of comparing a cache value with a network device information value newly acquired in the network device acquisition step when it is decided to hold information in cache in the network device holding decision step; a cache value hold step of holding the acquired network device information as a cache value when results of the comparison of the cache value with the newly acquired networked device information value are determined to differ, also when it is decided that a cache is not being held in the network device holding decision step; a network device information display step of displaying on the device window the cache value held in the cache value hold step; a sheet list status change step of changing a status of currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed status in order to decide whether to display all

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network device information in the display all sheet information step; an update decision step of deciding whether or not to update a display of information on the device window when it is decided that all network device information was displayed in the display all sheet information step; a timer update set step of setting an automatic update timer when it is decided to perform updates in the update decision step; a timer update monitor step of determining whether or not time is up on the automatic update timer set in the timer update set step; and an update stop monitor step of monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when the time has not run out on the automatic update timer monitored in the timer update monitor step (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that contains columns and rows displaying the status of the network devices, these devices are polled and the results are subsequently used to update the status of the devices. Furthermore, each of the menu definitions has a custom menu for each of the functions that can also be displayed and updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 51, Marlin et al disclose a network device control method wherein the instant display step comprises: a sheet information list decision step of deciding whether each of a cache value enable decision step, a network device information display step, and a sheet information list status change step were implemented on a currently held sheet information list; a cache value enable decision step of deciding whether information in the sheet information list was previously acquired, when it is determined in the sheet information list decision step that the cache value enable decision step, the network device information display step, and the sheet information list status change step were not implemented for the entire sheet information list; a network

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device information display step of displaying a cache value of certain information on the device window when it is determined that the information was previously acquired in the cache value enable decision step; and a sheet list status change step of changing a status of currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display completed-status; see col. 15, lines 1-66, Marlin changes and updates the status information on the display screen.

As set forth in claim 52, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus wherein the instant display unit comprises: a sheet information list decision unit of deciding whether each of a cache value enable decision unit, a network device information display unit, and a sheet information list status change unit were implemented on a currently held sheet information list; a cache value enable decision unit for deciding whether information in the sheet information list was previously acquired, when it is determined in the sheet information list decision unit that the cache value enable decision unit, the network device information display unit, and the sheet information list status change unit were not implemented for the entire sheet information list; a network device information display unit for displaying a cache value of certain information on the device window when it is determined that the information was previously acquired using the cache value enable decision unit; and a sheet list status change step for changing a status of currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display completed-status; see col. 15, lines 1-66, Marlin changes and updates the status information on the display screen.

As set forth in claim 53, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein the instant display step comprises: a sheet information list decision step of deciding whether each of a cache

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value enable decision step, a network device information display step, and a sheet information list status change step were implemented on a currently held sheet information list; a cache value enable decision step of deciding whether information in the sheet information list was previously acquired, when it is determined in the sheet information list decision step that the cache value enable decision step, the network device information display step, and the sheet information list status change step were not implemented for the entire sheet information list; a network device information display step of displaying a cache value of certain information on the device window when it is determined that the information was previously acquired in the cache value enable decision step; and a sheet list status change step of changing a status of currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display completed-status; see col. 15, lines 1-66, Marlin changes and updates the status information on the display screen.

As set forth in claim 54, Marlin et al disclose a network device control method wherein the information acquisition step comprises: a display all sheet information decision step of deciding whether or not to all sheet information was displayed; a network device information hold decision step of deciding whether a cache is being held when it is determined in the display all sheet information decision step that not all of the information was displayed; a sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step of deciding whether or not to compulsorily acquire sheet information; a network device information acquisition step of acquiring information on the network device when it is determined in the sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step to compulsorily acquire sheet information; a cache comparison step of comparing a cache



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value with a device information value newly acquired in the network device information acquisition step; a cache value hold step of holding the acquired network device information as a cache value when results of the comparison of the cache value with the newly acquired device information value are determined to differ, and also when it is determined in the network device holding decision step that previously acquired network device information is not being held; a network device information display step of displaying on the network device window the cache value held in the cache value hold step; a sheet list status change step of changing a status of currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed status in order to decide whether to display all network device information in the display all sheet information step; an update decision step of deciding whether or not to update a display of information on the device window when it is determined that all network device information was displayed in the display all sheet information step; a timer update set step of setting an automatic update timer when it is decided to perform updates in the update decision step; a timer update monitor step of determining whether or not time is up on the automatic update time set in the time update set step; and an update stop monitor step of monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when the time has not run out the automatic update timer monitored in the time update monitor step (this can be ascertained based on the value of the status timer); see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 55, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus wherein the information acquisition unit comprises: a display all sheet information decision unit for

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deciding whether or not to all sheet information was displayed; a network device information hold decision unit for deciding whether a cache is being held when it is determined in the display all sheet information decision unit that not all of the information was displayed; a sheet information compulsory acquisition unit for deciding whether or not to compulsorily acquire sheet information; a network device information acquisition unit for acquiring information on the network device when it is determined using the sheet information compulsory acquisition decision unit to compulsorily acquire sheet information; a cache comparison unit for comparing a cache value with a device information value newly acquired using the network device information acquisition step; a cache value hold unit for holding the acquired network device information as a cache value when results of the comparison of the cache value with the newly acquired device information value are determined to differ, and also when it is determined using the network device holding decision unit that previously acquired network device information is not being held; a network device information display unit for displaying on the network device window the cache value held using the cache value hold unit; a sheet list status change unit for changing a status of currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed status in order to decide whether to display all network device information in the display all sheet information unit; an update decision unit for deciding whether or not to update a display of information on the device window when it is determined that all network device information was displayed in the display all sheet information unit; a timer update set unit for setting an automatic update timer when it is decided to perform updates using the update decision unit; and a timer update monitor

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unit for determining whether or not time is up on the automatic update time set in the time update set unit; and an update stop monitor unit of monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when the time has not run out the automatic update timer monitored using the time update monitor unit (this can be ascertained based on the value of the status timer); see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 56, Marlin et al disclose a recording medium wherein the information acquisition step comprises: a display all sheet information decision step of deciding whether or not to all sheet information was displayed; a network device information hold decision step of deciding whether a cache is being held when it is determined in the display all sheet information decision step that not all of the information was displayed; a sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step of deciding whether or not to compulsorily acquire sheet information; a network device information acquisition step of acquiring information on the network device when it is determined in the sheet information compulsory acquisition decision step to compulsorily acquire sheet information; a cache comparison step of comparing a cache value with a device information value newly acquired in the network device information acquisition step; a cache value hold step of holding the acquired network device information as a cache value when results of the comparison of the cache value with the newly acquired device information value are determined to differ, and also when it is determined in the network device holding decision step that previously acquired network device information is not being held; a network device information display step of displaying on the network device window the cache value held in the

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cache value hold step; a sheet list status change step of changing a status of currently displayed information on the sheet list to a display-completed status in order to decide whether to display all network device information in the display all sheet information step; an update decision step of deciding whether or not to update a display of information on the device window when it is determined that all network device information was displayed in the display all sheet information step; a timer update set step of setting an automatic update timer when it is decided to perform updates in the update decision step; a timer update monitor step of determining whether or not time is up on the automatic update time set in the time update set step; and an update stop monitor step of monitoring whether updating has stopped or not when the time has not run out the automatic update timer monitored in the time update monitor step (this can be ascertained based on the value of the status timer); see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 57, Marlin et al disclose a method of managing a plurality of network devices, acquiring information of a selected network device of the plurality of network devices, and displaying the acquired information, said method comprising: a first display step of acquiring a first information of a selected network device and of displaying the first information on a device window; and a second display step of acquiring a second information of the selected network device from the selected network device and of displaying the second information on the device window when a user has requested display of the second information. (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that contains columns and rows displaying the status of the network devices, these devices

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are polled and the results are subsequently used to update the status of the devices. Furthermore, each of the menu definitions has a custom menu for each of the functions that can also be displayed and updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 58, Marlin et al disclose a network device control apparatus for managing a plurality of network devices, acquiring information of a selected network device of the plurality of network devices, and displaying the acquired information, said apparatus comprising: a first display unit for acquiring a first information of a selected network device and displaying the first information on a device window; and a second display unit for acquiring a second information of the selected network device from the selected network device and displaying the second information on the device window when a user has requested display of the second information. (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that contains columns and rows displaying the status of the network devices, these devices are polled and the results are subsequently used to update the status of the devices. Furthermore, each of the menu definitions has a custom menu for each of the functions that can also be displayed and updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

As set forth in claim 59, Marlin et al disclose a computer-readable recording medium storing a program for managing a plurality of network devices, acquiring information from a selected network device of the plurality of network devices, and displaying the acquired information, the program comprising: program code for a first display step of acquiring a first information of a selected network device and of displaying the first information on a device

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window; and program code of a second display step of acquiring a second information of the selected network device from the selected network device and of displaying the second information on the device window when a user has requested display of the second information (Marlin specifically displays a GUI that contains columns and rows displaying the status of the network devices, these devices are polled and the results are subsequently used to update the status of the devices. Furthermore, each of the menu definitions has a custom menu for each of the functions that can also be displayed and updated; see col. 14, lines 15-41, and lines 50-66, and col. 15, lines 1-66).

### *Conclusion*

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Garvey et al (US 5,774,667) disclose a method and apparatus for managing parameter settings for multiple network device.

Sakai et al (US 5,935,217) disclose a network system in which a plurality of image processing apparatuses are connected.

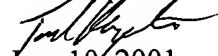
Chen et al (US 5,684,945) disclose a system and method for maintaining performance data in a data processing system.


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8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tod Kupstas whose telephone number is (703) 305-2655.

The fax phone number for this art unit is (703) 308-6743. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the technology center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Tod Kupstas

  
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